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Message Text

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20
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EUR-25 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 CCO-00 USSS-00 SS-20 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 MC-02 DRC-01 INRE-00 /167 W
---------- 100011
O R 140918Z OCT 73
FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0634
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
USINT CAIRO
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 1314

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, LY
SUBJECT: LARG PROTEST AND WARNING TO USG

1. AT 0045 LOCAL OCT 14 I WAS CALLED DOWN TO MEET WITH ACTING FONMIN FOR UNSPECIFIED REASON. ON ARRIVAL FOUND THAT I WAS TO MEET INSTEAD WITH UNDER SECRETARY NAAS, AND THAT ROOM WAS FULL OF PHOTOGRAPHERS. THEY LEFT AFTER NAAS WAR HALF WAY THROUGH MAKING THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. THE UNITED STATES IS "ADVENTURING" (RISKING) ITS INTERESTS BY PROVIDING ISRAEL WITH WAR MATERIALS.

B. ISRAEL, WHICH STARTED THE WAR, CONTINUES ITS AGGRESSION ON ARAB SOIL AND YET THE U.S. CONTINUES TO SUPPLY ARMS.

C. LIBYA PROTESTS STRONGLY AGAINST THE FLIGHT OF TWO U.S. RECONNAISSANCE PLANES OVER EGYPT ON OCT 13.
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D. LIBYA CONDEMNS AMERICAN ARMED FORCES INVOLVEMENT IN THE WAR--EVIDENCED BY "THE FACT SYRIA CAPTURED AN AMERICAN PILOT WHOSE PLANE HAD NO ISRAELI MARKINGS."

E. THIS DEMARCHE TO THE USG IS "A WARNING THAT THE ARABS ARE NOT AFRAID TO LOSE MORE THAN THEY HAVE ALREADY LOST."

2. AFTER VERIFYING AND TAKING NOTES ON THESE POINTS, I REPLIED AS FOLLOWS (IN SUMMARY): WHILE US WAS MAJOR ARMS SUPPLIER TO ISRAEL BEFORE THE WAR, THIS WAS IN CONTEXT OF AN OVERALL ME POLICY OF SUPPORT FOR THE INDEPENDENCE AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF ALL STATES IN AREA. NOW THAT WAR HAS BROKEN OUT OUR OBJECTIVES ARE AN END OF HOSTILITIES AND A JUST PEACE. I HAD NO INFO ON ALLEGED RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS, BUT COULD CATEGORICALLY DENY ANY AMERICAN MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN THE WAR. WOULD REPORT HIS DEMARCHE AND CONVEY A REPLY.

3. NAAS INDICATED A REPLY NOT NECESSRY AS HIS DEMARCHE A WARNING TO USG. I INDICACATED IT BASED ON REPORTS WHICH, AT TIME OF TENSION, MIGHT WELL BE UNTRUE. AGAIN EMPHASIZED U.S. OBJECTIVES WERE FOR PEACE WITH JUSTICE TO ALL PARTIES. NAAS WENT BACK TO INJUSTICE OF FOUNDING OF ISRAEL, STATING U.S. CREATED IT. I DENIED THIS AND SAID WE FOUND IT AS A FACT OF LIFE. U.S. WAS NOT ANTI-ARAB OR ANTI-ISRAEL, BUT PRO-PEACE. AFTER HALF AN HOUR OF SUCH GO-AROUNDS, THE SESSION ENDED ON THE NOTE THAT WE SHOULD MEET AGAIN SOMETIME. HE SAID HE AVAILABLE.

4. COMMENTS FOLLOW SEPTEL.
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